

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 13202 091725Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----054123 091726Z /53

P 091712Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7035

S E C R E T LONDON 13202

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, NPG, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH ATTITUDES ON NEUTRON BOMB

REF: STATE 184569

1. NO RPT NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HAVE RAISED ISSUE OF NEUTRON BOMB WITH US. DEFENCE AND FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN WELL AWARE OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH LEFT WING OF LABOR PARTY WOULD PROTEST US DECISION TO PRODUCE NEUTRON BOMB AND WOULD SEEK TO PREVENT BRITISH GOVERNMENT FROM AGREEING TO ITS DEPLOYMENT WITHIN NATO AND/OR STORAGE IN UK, WE WOULD EXPECT HMG TO ACCEPT US DECISIONS MADE AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SCORE OR SO OF LETTERS FROM PEACE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS PROTESTING PRESIDENT'S RECENT DECISION TO CONTINUE RESEARCH. SOME LETTERS ERRONEOUSLY PROTEST ALLEGED DECISION TO PRODUCE AND DEPLOY. MOST PROMINENT PERSONAGE TO HAVE PROTESTED THUS FAR (IN SPEECH OPENING PEACE EXHIBIT AND NOT IN LETTER

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TO EMBASSY) IS COMPOSER MICHAEL TIPPITT. EDITORIALS IN LEADING LONDON NEWSPAPERS REFLECTED TONE OF SORROW MORE THAN ANGER THAT MILITARY SCIENCE HAD DEVELOPED MORE EFFICIENT MEANS OF KILLING PEOPLE WHILE PRESERVING BUILDINGS. EXCEPTION WAS DAILY TELEGRAPH (WHICH HAS MILITARISTIC, AS WELL AS JINGOISTIC, STREAK), WHICH DEFENDED NEUTRON BOMB IN PURELY MILITARY TERMS.

3. BASED ON THIS MINOR FLURRY IN PACIFIST AND LEFTIST CIRCLES AND RELATIVELY MILD EDITORIAL COMMENT, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT PUBLIC OPINION TO BE A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN BRITISH OFFICIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NEUTRON BOMB.

BREWSTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
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Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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